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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 003290

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: TAIWAN SOLIDARITY UNION CELEBRATES FOURTH  
ANNIVERSARY: PRESIDENT CHEN REITERATES "ROC IS TAIWAN" AND  
"FOUR STAGES OF ROC," TSU-DPP COOPERATION IN TROUBLE

REF: TAIPEI 3240

Classified By: AIT Director Douglas Paal, Reason(s): 1.4 (B/D)

1. (U) Summary: The fourth anniversary of the fiercely pro-independence Taiwan Solidarity Union (TSU) brought President Chen Shui-bian and his "deep-Green" critic, former President Lee Teng-hui, on stage together for the first time in several months. While the two men were outwardly cordial toward each other, it was clear from Lee's statements that Pan-Green coalition has unraveled and cooperation has ceased on the December 2005 local elections. Addressing this "deep-Green" (pro-independence) gathering, President Chen took the opportunity once again to reiterate his "Republic of China (ROC) is Taiwan" and his "four stages of ROC" thesis. He acknowledged that any future was possible, so long as it reflected the wishes of the people, but he did not state that one possibility was reunification. End Summary.

2. (C) President Chen Shui-bian and former President Lee Teng-hui mounted the stage together for the first time in three months at the August 6 fourth anniversary celebration of the founding of the staunchly pro-independence TSU. In the days before the event, TSU officials had told AIT that they hoped the event would provide a venue for reconciliation between Chen and TSU's "Spiritual Leader" Lee and between DPP and TSU. Chen and Lee interacted congenially onstage and reportedly met in private prior to the event. Only Chen, however, demonstrated willingness to reach out to the other coalition partner, TSU, while Lee continued to express dissatisfaction with the overall direction of Chen government policies.

3. (C) Relations between Pan-Green coalition partners DPP and TSU and their two leaders, Chen and Lee, have continued to worsen since Lee launched scathing attacks on Chen for being "too soft" in response to the PRC's Anti-Secession Law in March and to the visits of KMT Chair Lien Chan and PFP Chair James Soong to Beijing in April-May. This friction over cross-strait relations was further exacerbated when the two parties began planning for the December 2005 city/county chief elections, as efforts by the two coalition partners to cooperate on nominations failed to materialize.

4. (C) In his remarks, President Chen assured a standing-room-only crowd of TSU politicians and supporters that he will not waiver on his insistence on Taiwan's separate identity from China and his pledge to protect Taiwan's sovereignty and eventually make Taiwan a "normal, complete, advanced, and great" country. Chen described the DPP and TSU as "ideological allies and action partners" and stressed that the two parties share goals of strengthening Taiwan's national identity and sustainable development. At the same time, Chen also admitted that the two parties, missions and roles probably differ slightly at the moment and expressed his hope that "any rifts between us over electoral competition should not obstruct our cooperation in pursuing our common goals." (Note: A member of the audience gave Poloff a running translation of the Taiwanese language statements of Chen and Lee. End Note.)

5. (U) In describing his policy, Chen reiterated the "four stages of the Republic of China (ROC)" with the current stage being "the ROC is Taiwan" (See Reftel). His statement was greeted with polite but underwhelming applause from the audience. Chen stressed that his administration is seeking both reconciliation with opposition parties and cross-strait detente in order to achieve domestic political stability and pursue a breakthrough in deadlocked cross-strait relations. He added that any future for Taiwan was possible, so long as it was in accordance with the sovereign will of the Taiwan people. He did not, however, specify that one possible future was reunification. Chen defined his administration's engagement with China as "One Principle," "Three Insistences," and "Five Oppositions":

-- One Principle: Taiwan's sovereign status. Chen added that his administration looks forward to hold dialogue and consultations with China under the principle of "democracy, parity, and peace."

-- Three Insistences: Insisting on continued democratic reform; insisting on Taiwan,s separate identity from China; and insisting on developing Taiwan into a "normal, complete, advanced, and great" country.

-- Five Oppositions: Opposing Beijing,s "One China" principle; opposing Beijing,s "One Country, Two Systems" unification formula; opposing the so-called "1992 Consensus"; opposing any proposal that upholds unification as the only option for Taiwan,s future; and opposing China,s anti-secession law that codifies the use of "non-peaceful means" against Taiwan.

16. (U) While the crowd listened closely to President Chen,s statements and applauded occasionally, former President Lee was the main event, commanding a standing ovation and repeated hearty cheers from the audience. Lee focused his comments on criticizing "collusion" of pan-Blue alliance leaders with China, especially the visits by Kuomintang Chairman Lien Chan and People First Party James Soong to the Mainland. He asserted that Taiwan's most dangerous enemies were those leaders who benefited from contact with the PRC. Lee also urged TSU politicians to stand united and to do their best to ensure that the party,s nominees for the December city and county elections succeed in their electoral bids. Finally, Lee stated that it is time for the TSU to stand on its own as a political party, depending only on itself for success. He conceded that this would not be a quick and easy process; after all "Rome was not built in a day." Lee asserted that the TSU plays a unique role in Taiwan politics as "the only anti-Communist political party" in Taiwan.

PAAL